

AMENDED NEW PATENT CLAIMS

1. (original) Method for improving the long term stability of biodiesel, wherein

1.1 crude methyl ester is formed by transesterification of a vegetable or animal fat or oil with methanol,

1.2 the crude methyl ester thus formed is intensively post-treated at temperatures between 25 and 60 C, with a strong acid or with a mixture of a strong acid and a complex former

characterized in that

1.3 a fine emulsion is prepared from the ester and the acid phase,

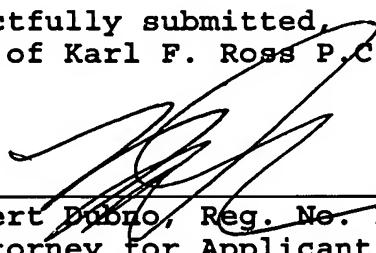
1.4 the ester layer separated from the emulsion formed thereby is subjected to a thorough water wash and subsequently dried.

2. (original) The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that, as strong acid hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, ptoluenesulfonic acid or phosphoric acid are employed and as complex former EDTA or citric acid.

3. (currently amended) The method according to ~~Claims 1 and 2~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the water wash of biodiesel is carried out in a wash column according to the counter current principle or by means of a mechanically intensive mixer.

This preliminary amendment is submitted to provide the cross reference of the present US national phase of PCT/EP2003/010550 to the international application according to Rule 78, and to eliminate multiple dependencies in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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